

Environmental Review Resources

Endangered Species: For NSP project, this requirement will not be triggered since most projects are rehabilitation of existing structures. Send letter to MN DNR Natural Heritage requesting them to search their database for rare plant or animal species or other significant natural features known to occur within a one-mile radius of the project. Also request if they can make a determination if the nature of the project threatens any of the indicated species. File the letter. Document response while being careful not to reveal information about the type of species cited in letter.

Documentation requirement: If necessary, attach documentation outlining request and outcomes from MN DNR.

Air Quality: Currently all counties in Minnesota are not designated as "nonattainment" by the EPA. Thus, this requirement is not triggered. File a copy of the map entitled "Counties Designated "Nonattainment" in Appendix A. (Check on the status of MN Counties yearly to determine if this still is the case.) If your county ever did receive the designation of "nonattainment," the county must show proof of being in compliance with the State Implementation Plan (SIP). If you're interested, the SIP can be found at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/sip.html>.

Documentation requirement: Attach map entitled "Counties Designated "Nonattainment."

Farmland Protection: In most cases, this requirement will not be triggered due to the nature of NSP projects. Find a map, or other documentation, that shows whether the parcel is designated as agricultural land.

Documentation requirement: Attach documentation displaying zoning designation.

Local Zoning Ordinances: Check to make sure that the project site is zoned for either multi-family or single-family residences as needed by the NSP programs. Don't automatically assume the project that you acquired is still zoned for the appropriate land use. It is possible that in its current state the project could still be allowed under a "grandfather clause." In short, check the zoning ordinance for the parcel your project is on.

Documentation requirement: Attach documentation displaying zoning designation.

Historic Preservation: Request views of the property from SHPO. Send letter with photograph. Wait for response. File results. Take action, if necessary.

Documentation requirement: Attach SHPO Letter.

Floodplain Management: Go to the following website to get a copy of the Floodplain Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the area your project is located in:

<http://msc.fema.gov/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/CategoryDisplay?catalogId=10001&storeId=10001&categoryId=12001&langId=-1&userType=G&type=1>. See Appendix B for FIRM retrieval directions.

You can also access these maps in hard copy format from your local county or city offices and sometimes even from a local bank. Once the FIRM is received, determine if the project site is located within or near a floodplain by placing a star on the location of your project. File results. Take action, if necessary.

Documentation requirement: Attach Floodplain Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the area your project is located with a star indicating project location. If the project is located in a FEMA floodplain, the following information is needed in order to be in compliance: Community Name and Panel Number and Flood Insurance Policy.

Wetlands Protection: Go to the following website to get a copy of a map utilizing National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Data: <http://wetlandsfws.er.usgs.gov/wtlnds/launch.html>
Once map is received, determine if the project site is located on a wetland by placing a star on the location of your project. File results. Take action, if necessary.

Documentation requirement: Attach NWI Map for the area your project is located with a star indicating project location. If the project is located on a wetland and the project is not new construction nor does it require filling, the project is in compliance.

Coastal Zone Management: Minnesota's Coastal Zone Management Area extends from Duluth to Grand Portage. See Map in Appendix D.

If your project is outside of the Coastal Boundary, the project does not trigger this requirement and your project is in compliance. File a copy of information from the Lake Superior Coastal Program website printout and map entitled "Figure 5: The Coastal Boundary in Minnesota" in Appendix C.

If your project is within the Coastal Boundary, the project does trigger this requirement and the project will have to prove it is following the Coastal Management Plan. Minnesota implements its Coastal Management Plan through local ordinances; therefore, if your project is in compliance with local ordinances it will be in compliance with the Coastal Management Plan.

If the project is rehabilitation of existing structures or the project does not trigger an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS), then the aforementioned assumption can stand. If the project does need an EA or EIS, then the appropriate permits and consultation with MN DNR - Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program Personnel is required. (Phone conversation with Pat Collins, Coastal Program Manager (218) 834-6612

pat.collins@dnr.state.mn.us, on May 22nd, 2006 at 3:15pm.)

Documentation requirement: Attach a copy of the map of Minnesota's Coastal Zone Management Area. AND if the project is within Coastal Boundary, attach documentation indicating that your project is in compliance with local zoning and other ordinances.

Sole Source Aquifers: There is only one sole source aquifer in Minnesota. In general, if your project is located more than five miles from the Mille Lacs Lake, this requirement will not be triggered.

File a copy of information/map from the EPA – found in Appendix C.

Documentation requirement: Attach a copy of the sole source aquifer map and indicate about how far the project is from the Mille Lacs Lake.

Wild and Scenic Rivers: The St. Croix River has been designated as a Wild and Scenic River by the National Park Service. Determine the proximity of the project to the St. Croix River.

- If the project is more than one-mile from the River, the project does not trigger this requirement and your project is in compliance. File the information from the National Wild and Scenic River System with documentation of the distance to St. Croix River.
- If the project is within one-mile, the project triggers this requirement and you must contact the U.S. Department of Interior and MN DNR for an impact resolution and mitigation requirements. Document and file information given from above departments. Take action accordingly

Documentation requirement: Attach documentation displaying distance from the St. Croix River, which can be a general map of the location of the city or town the project is located in on a Minnesota Map.

Environmental Justice: In general, if all of the other items on the statutory worksheet are in compliance, then environmental justice will be in compliance as well. Environmental justice seeks to reduce the exposure of adverse environmental factors on low-income and minority populations.

Noise: Determine if the project will produce excessive noise levels (65 dB) **OR** if it is located within 1,000 feet of a major roadway or 3,000 feet of a railroad **OR** if it is located within an airport's noise zone.

For most NSP projects, the following statement will be true:

Due to the nature of NSP, which are primarily rehabilitation programs, each project already exists nor will each project propose noise sensitive land development [24 CFR 51.101(a)(2)].

Cases where alternative documentation will be needed is when the project requires conversion of land use (i.e. school to multi-family), new construction or excessive noise levels as indicated by 24 CFR 51.101(8) and 24 CFR 51.101(9). In these cases, documentation should include distances to noise generators, as indicated above, and/or noise attenuation measures used to bring project into acceptable noise levels.

Documentation requirement: Attach any other documentation from visual observation indicating who conducted and when the visual assessment took place. For most projects, the following statement will suffice.

Hazardous Operations: There are several steps to fulfill analysis requirements.

1. Search the MN Pollution Control Tanks Database to determine if there are any aboveground tanks near the project site. If the project is located within one-mile of a 100 gallon aboveground tank, is there a sufficient barrier (natural or manmade) between the tank and the site.
2. Field Observation.

Document all findings from above and determine whether they will adversely affect the project.

Documentation requirement: Attach documentation indicating whether the project is located within one-mile of a 100 gallon aboveground tank and whether there a sufficient barrier (natural/manmade) between the tank and the site. AND Any other documentation from visual observation indicating who conducted and when the visual assessment took place.

Toxic or Hazardous Substances and Radioactive Materials: In order to do a complete analysis for this requirement, there are several sources for this information:

1. Use the MN Pollution Control Minnesota Aboveground / Underground Storage Tank Site Search Database for locating for known tanks that have leaked. Search by Address, Zip Code or City: http://www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/lust_pSearch.cfm
2. Use "What's in My Neighborhood?" GIS-Based Search (Link on right hand side of page) for locating "known and potential sources of soil and ground water contamination": <http://pca-gis04.pca.state.mn.us/website/mes/mesfin/entry.htm> Click on "Enter Interactive Mapping Application."
3. Field Observation. Visit site and look around. Use judgment about interior hazards, such as asbestos, lead based paint, etc and neighborhood facilities in the vicinity of the project that can adversely affect the project's site.

Document all findings from above and determine whether they will adversely affect the project.

Documentation requirement: Attach a copy of the print-out from the Pollution Control Minnesota Aboveground / Underground Storage Tank Site Search Database indicating whether the address of your project shows up on the list. AND Attach a copy of the print-out from the "What's in My Neighborhood?" GIS-Based Search. AND Any other documentation from visual observation indicating who conducted and when the visual assessment took place.

Airport Clear Zones: Determine if the project is within 3,000 feet of a civil airport or 2.5 miles of a military airport. Document distance from any airports.

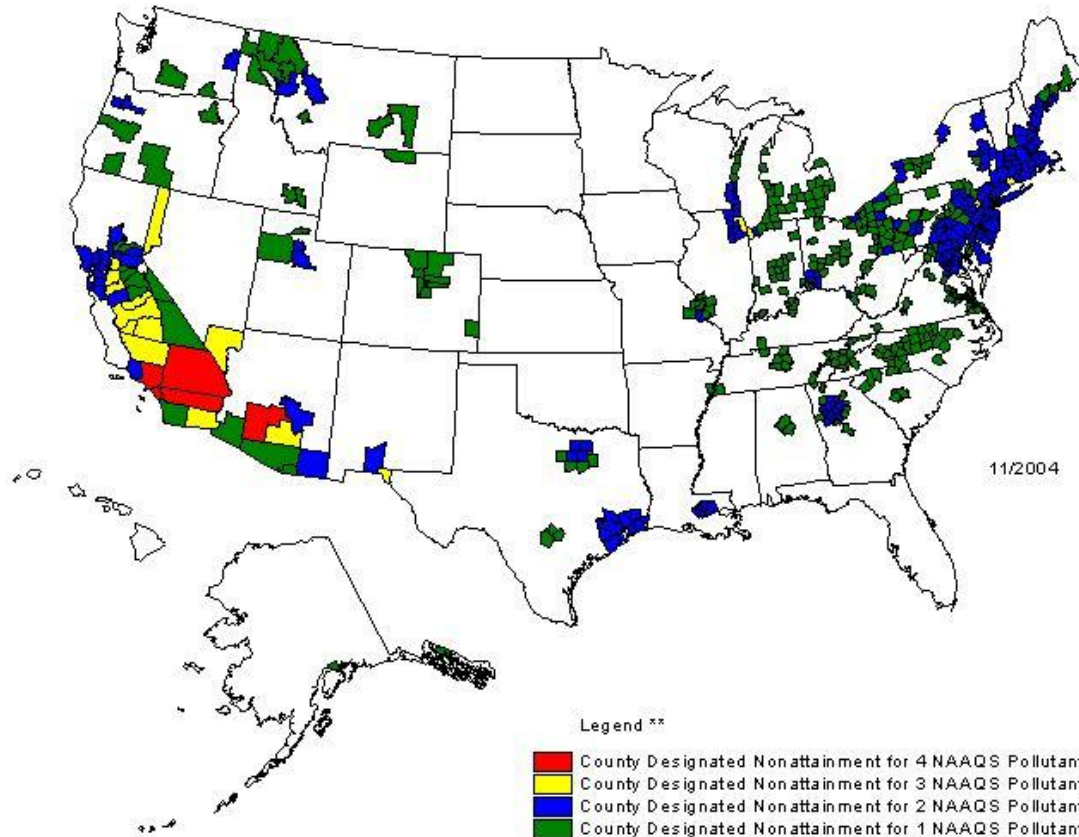
Documentation requirement: Attach a written statement indicating the distances to the nearest airports.

Appendix A

Air Quality Map

Counties Designated "Nonattainment"

for Clean Air Act's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) *



Guam - Piti and Tanguisson Counties are designated nonattainment for the SO₂ NAAQS

* The National Ambient Air Quality Standards are health standards for lead, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, ground level ozone (1-hour and 8-hour), particulate matter (PM-10). There are no nitrogen dioxide nonattainment areas. EPA is in the process of designating areas for fine particulates (PM 2.5).

** Partial counties, those with part of the county designated nonattainment and part attainment, are shown as full counties on the map.

Appendix B

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)

Retrieval Directions

Instructions for: Viewing FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), Floodway Maps (FBFM), & Flood Insurance Studies (FIS); and Printing “FIRMettes” on FEMA Web Site

STEP 1 – Go to web site

- Go to: www.msc.fema.gov (or go to www.fema.gov/nfip)
- click on "The FEMA Flood Map Store" button on the left (may need to scroll down to see button)

STEP 2 – View scanned Flood Map panel

To find panel by community (If you don't know the community, try "Map Search" and zoom in until you see the panel number for the area you're interested in, then go back to the catalog button.)

- click "catalog" (in bar at top or in menu on right side)
- click "FEMA Issued Flood Maps" to get FIRMs (or "Flood Insurance Studies (FIS)" to get FIS or Floodway maps)
- In drop down boxes 1, 2 and 3: Select "Minnesota," Select county you want & Select community you want
- Click on "Find FEMA issued Flood Maps!" (or "Find Flood Insurance Studies (FIS)!") – Note: you may need to scroll down to see line 4
- Once panel choices are shown, click the green button under the "view" column for the panel you want. (If there is a blue "+" next to the green view button (under the show LOMC column), click on that to see which Letters of Map Amendment (LOMAs) or Letters of Map Revisions (LOMRs) can be viewed online.)
- Use normal zoom features to look around the panel and zoom in to see more detail.
- If there's more than one panel, and you don't know which panel you need, the bottom panel will usually be the index (has IND in the name). You can view the index to see the panel you need, then close the window (click the upper right "X") and view the panel number you need.

STEP 3 – Create FIRMette

- Click "Make a FIRMette" button – you'll see a map loading and the button changes to "follow instructions"
- Instructions step #1 – default size is 8 ½ x 11 (press button for other size choice, if preferred)
- Instructions step #2 – The scanned map will come up with a red semi-transparent box on the map portion, a smaller green semi-transparent box on the scale and north arrow, and a bigger green semi-transparent box on the title block. The areas covered by the 3 semi-transparent boxes are what will get printed in the FIRMette; they're basically cookie cutters. Unless you happen to want the upper left corner of the map, you'll need to move the red box (hold left mouse button and SLOWLY drag) to the area where you want the map printed. If the green boxes are too far off, you can select the "scale and north arrow" or "title block" buttons and move either of those boxes once they turn red.
- Instructions step #3 – create FIRMette – (may need to scroll down): Click Adobe PDF (or TIFF image) button and a view of the FIRMette will come up with a "Save your FIRMette" button. Click that button and you can open as an Acrobat file, and then print or save as pdf file or you may be able to save the file directly (remember where you put it!). If saved to file, bring up saved pdf file in Acrobat and print (or tiff in appropriate program)

FEMA has more detailed instructions, with graphics, on their website at: <http://msc.fema.gov/documents.shtml>

Contact Ceil Strauss @ MN DNR Waters, Floodplain Unit; 651-259-5713 or ceil.strauss@dnr.state.mn.us if you have questions or can suggest improvements to these directions.

1/15/04 revision - MnDNR Waters

How to Make a FIRMette Using Map Search

www.store.msc.fema.gov

Map Search allows users to view and select a flood map panel geographically. A specific flood map panel or an area of interest can be located by typing in a street address or by using the interactive map. Follow the steps below:

Step 1: Click "Map Search."

Step 2: Select the product you wish to view or order. ("Public Flood Map" for this example)

Step 3: Click on address, type in the address of interest and press the Go button.

Step 4: A new window will appear listing only the panel where that address is located. Click the green button to view or create a FIRMette.

Note: The original window will be minimized at the bottom. Click on it and you will see the chosen address on a map.

Step 5: A new window will appear displaying the image. Click on the "Make a FIRMette!" button. *

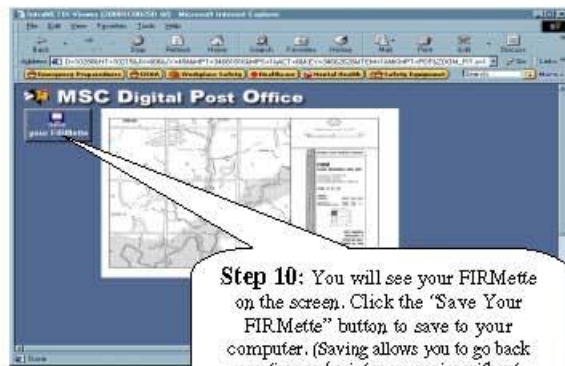
Step 6: Choose your paper size. (The default size is 8.5 X 11.)

Step 7: Slowly drag the pink box to cover the area you want included in your FIRMette.

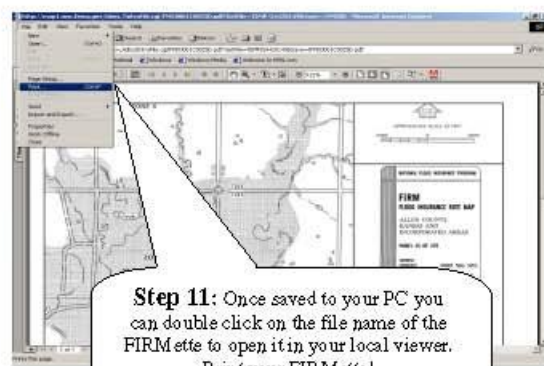
Step 8: If you wish to reposition the title block or north arrow, click the appropriate button to the left and then drag the pink box to cover the area you want included. (They will be centered by default.)

Step 9: Choose either Adobe PDF or Tiff.

* Note: If you have used the Zoom In feature, you may need to then click the MAX Zoom Out button **before** you click "Make a FIRMette" button.

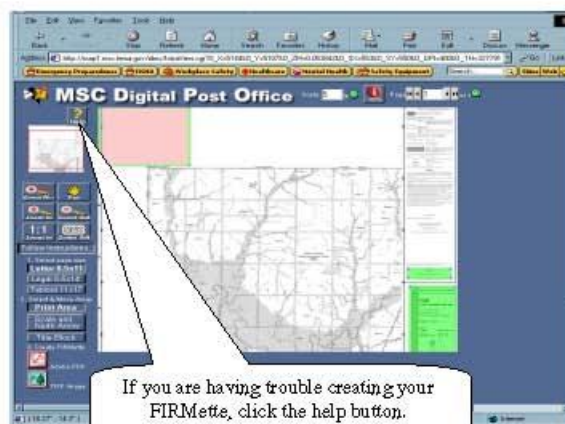


Step 10: You will see your FIRMette on the screen. Click the "Save Your FIRMette" button to save to your computer. (Saving allows you to go back any time and print more copies without going through all of the steps again.)

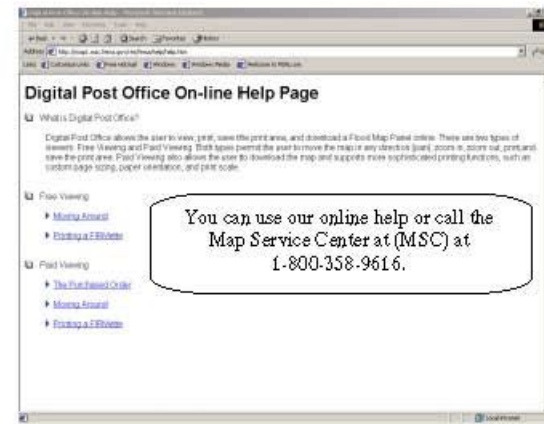


Step 11: Once saved to your PC you can double click on the file name of the FIRMette to open it in your local viewer. Print your FIRMette! (Remember to set the layout of your printer to landscape.)

Note: Depending on your computer set-up, when saving as Adobe PDF you may get a choice to open or save after you click the Save Your FIRMette button. Sometimes it works better to choose open, then print or save using Adobe Acrobat Reader, rather than clicking the save right away.

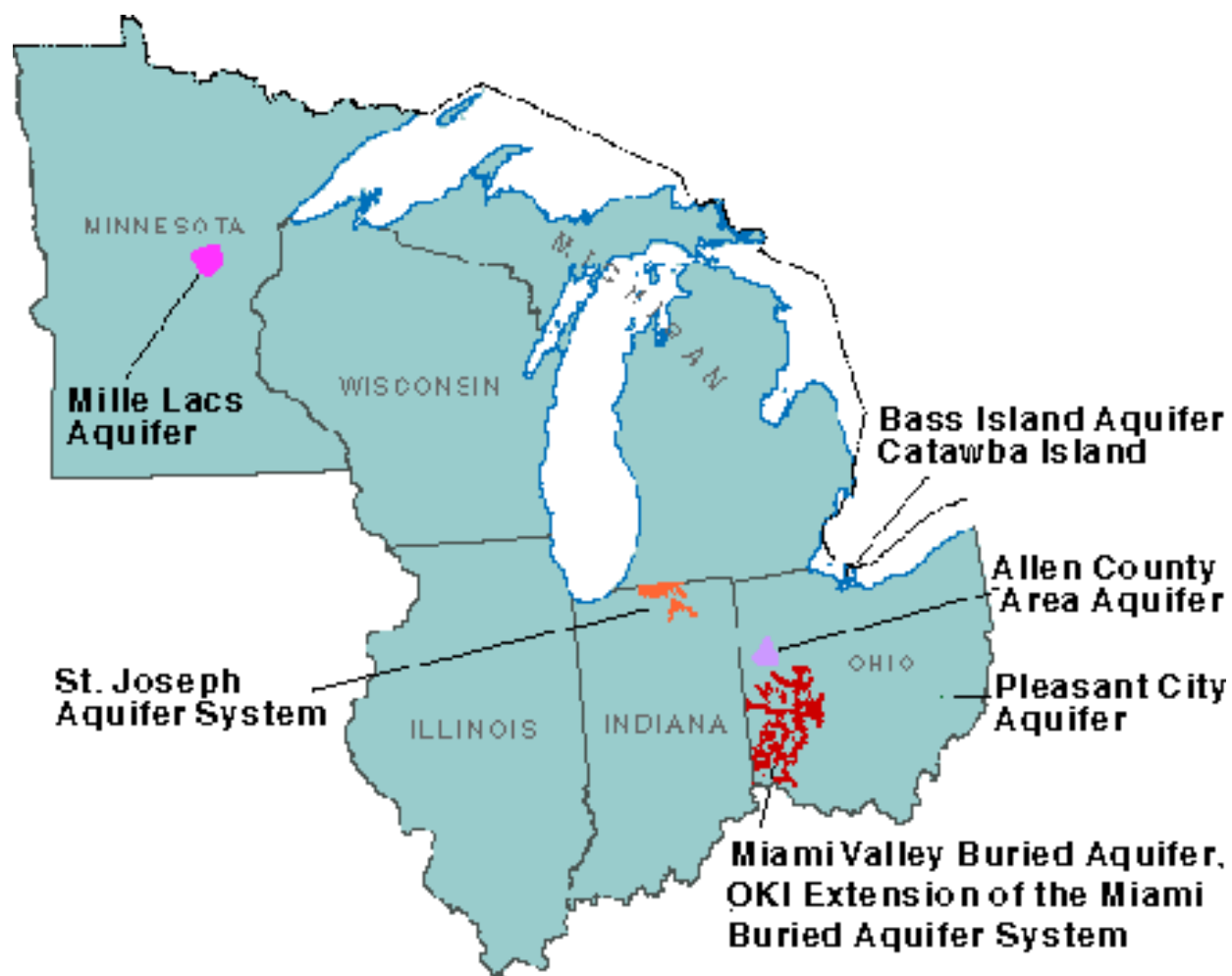


If you are having trouble creating your FIRMette, click the help button.



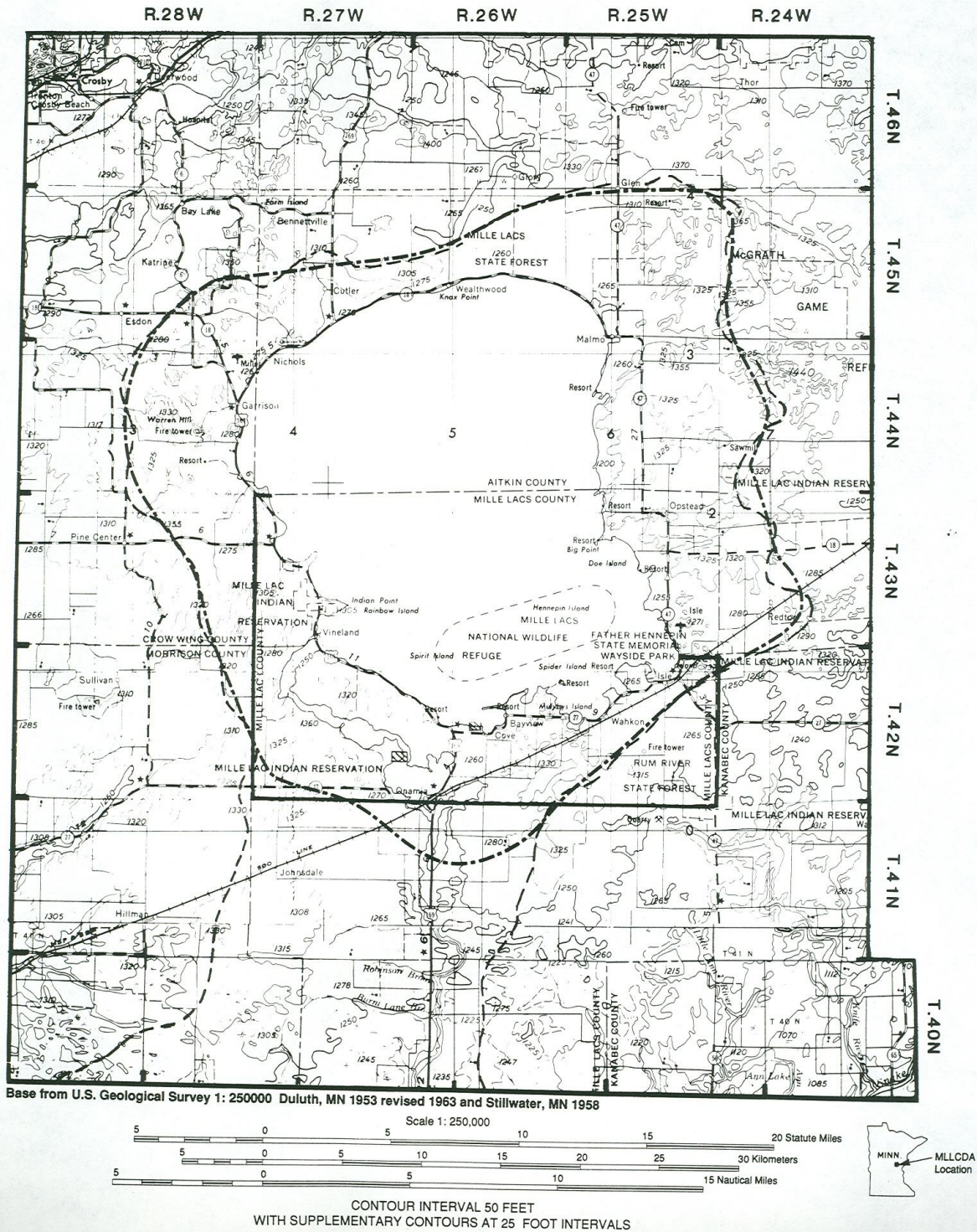
You can use our online help or call the Map Service Center at (MSC) at 1-800-358-9616.

Appendix C
Sole Source Aquifer Map



Thomas Poy
Ground Water Branch, US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
phone: (312) 886-5991
email: poy.thomas@epa.gov

Contact the coordinator above for more information.



EXPLANATION

- - - - Rum River Watershed Boundary
- . - . - . MLLCDA Boundary/Ground Water Divide
- Mille Lacs Reservation Boundary

Figure 1 : Mille Lacs Lake Confined Drift Aquifer (MLLCDA)

MINNESOTA

Appendix D
Coastal Zone Boundary Map

Figure 5.
The Coastal Boundary
in Minnesota

